

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 07ANKARA598, TURKEY/GREECE/NATO: NOBLE ARCHER CANCELLATION AND

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07ANKARA598**.

| Reference ID | Created | Released | Classification | Origin |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 07ANKARA598 | 2007-03-15 15:56 | 2011-08-30 01:44 | CONFIDENTIAL | Embassy Ankara |

Appears in these articles:

www.tanea.gr

VZCZCXYZ0027
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAK #0598 0741556
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 151556Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1347
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFISS/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// PRIORITY
RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU PRIORITY
RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000598

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/15/2017
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [GR](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY/GREECE/NATO: NOBLE ARCHER CANCELLATION AND
STATUS OF AGIOS EFSTRATIOS

REF: A. ATHENS 0459

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Nancy McEldowney for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

11. (C) We understand the commander of the NATO Air Component Command in Izmir cancelled NATO involvement in the February 27 Noble Archer exercise in the Aegean after Greek authorities posted a NOTAM that included the island of Limnos, whose demilitarized status is in dispute. MFA Deputy Director General for Aviation and Maritime Affairs Basat Ozturk, a NATO veteran who handles Aegean issues, told us March 15 that the MFA was taken by surprise by the Greek reaction to the cancellation and concerns over the island of Agios Efstratios.

12. (C) He said the MFA had taken no position in the decision on the exercise, nor has it presented any new position on Aegean issues at NATO or elsewhere since then. He attributed the exercise cancellation to poor communication between NATO components, from Brussels down to the CAOC level. Ozturk said the Secretary General had queried Turkey's NATO permrep, who had merely advised that NATO should maintain its traditional neutral stance in Greece-Turkey disputes.

13. (C) Ozturk said the MFA has been following the issue in the Greek press, since Greece has not approached Turkey through any official channels. A senior Greek Embassy official had visited his department March 15 and had not mentioned the issue. He said that numerous channels exist for the Greeks to express their concerns, including the scheduled March 22 Turkey-Greece Steering Group meeting at the political director level where Aegean confidence-building measures are on the agenda.

14. (C) We recommend the Department refer specific queries about the cancellation of Noble Archer to NATO. We should stick to our standing guidance on Greece-Turkey Aegean issues if asked about the status of Agios Efstratios. Injecting ourselves into this latest dispute, merely a new variation on an old theme, runs the risk of appearing to undermine NATO decision-making and needlessly places the US squarely in the middle of the controversy.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON